

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 BIB-01 /066 W

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R 231648Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4890

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 18739

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IT

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S ITALIAN VISIT

1. AS A POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECULATION ABOUT GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S FUTURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING CPSU PARTY CONGRESS, WE WOULD NOTE THAT SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER URANOV, IN A PRESENTATION CEREMONY IN BOLOGNA ON DECEMBER 19, SPOKE OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO ITALY "THIS COMING SPRING." URANOV'S REMARKS WERE REPORTED DECEMBER 20 IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY L'UNITA.

2. WE BROUGHT URANOV'S REMARKS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MFA'S OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THEM, AND STATED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONTACTS BETWEEN THE ITALIAN AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE PRECISE DATES OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT. OUR SOURCE DID NOTE THAT DURING PRESIDENT LEONE'S RECENT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, THE SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN MENTIONING ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS A POSSIBLE BREZHNEV VISIT TO ITALY WITHOUT SPEAKING OF A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME.

3. FINALLY, A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO HAD NOT
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SEEN THE L'UNITA ARTICLE, "CATEGORICALLY" DENIED TO

AN EMBOFF THAT A DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE BREZHNEV
VISIT TO ITALY.VOLPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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